

REMARKS

This response is filed in response to an Advisory Action dated November 26, 2003 issued by the United States Patent and Trademark Office in connection with the above identified application.

Applicant has carefully studied the Advisory Action. The present response is intended to be fully responsive to all points of rejection raised by the Examiner.

Claims 1-19, 21-28 and 33-35 are pending in the application. Claims 1-32 have been cancelled. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Allowed Claims

Applicants would also like to gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication that claims 33-35 are allowable. Claims 11, 24 and 25 have been cancelled, thus addressing the double patenting objection.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1-10, 12-23 and 26-28 stand rejected.

35 U.S.C. §102 Rejections

Claims 1-6, 10, 13-18, 20-13 and 26-32 stand rejected under under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Goodman et al (US Patent no: 4,630,014).

Claims 1, 4, 13, 14, 22, 23 and 27-28 stand rejected under under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Muz (US Patent no: 5,054,488).

Claims 1-4, 7, 10, 12-16, 19 and 27-28 stand rejected under under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Ogawa et al (US Patent no: 5,427,093).

Claims 1-9, 13-21 and 27-28 stand rejected under under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Rafert et al (US Patent no: 5,817,008).

The proposed amendments submitted with the Response to Office Action dated April 8, 2003 have not been entered "since they raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or a search".

Appl. No. 09/831,944
Reply to Advisory Action of November 26, 2003

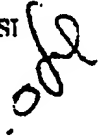
Claims 1-10, 12-23 and 26-28 have been withdrawn. Thus the rejection is now moot. Applicants reserve the right to file continuation and/or divisional applications from the present application.

Should the Examiner have any question or comment as to the form, content or entry of this Amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below. Similarly, if there are any further issues yet to be resolved to advance the prosecution of this application to issue, the Examiner is requested to telephone or communicate via Fax to the undersigned counsel.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are patentable over the art of record and are now in condition for allowance. Prompt notice of allowance is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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